

second helical member, wherein the axial member limits elongation of the catheter under tension but does not substantially reduce catheter flexibility.

9. (Once Amended) An intravascular catheter as in claim 8, wherein the monofilaments comprise liquid crystal polymer.

13. (Once Amended) An intravascular catheter comprising an elongate shaft having a reinforcement layer comprising a tubular braid having a first helical member interwoven with a second helical member and an axial member disposed between the first helical member and the second helical member, wherein the axial member limits elongation of the catheter under tension but does not substantially reduce catheter flexibility.

20. (Once Amended) An intravascular catheter as in claim 19, wherein the monofilaments comprise liquid crystal polymer.

23. (New) An intravascular catheter comprising an elongate shaft having a lumen extending therethrough, the shaft including an inner polymer layer, a reinforcement layer disposed about the inner layer and an outer polymer layer disposed about the reinforcement layer, the reinforcement layer comprising a tubular braid having a first helical member interwoven with a second helical member and an axial member disposed between the first helical member and the second helical member,

wherein the axial member comprises a plurality of liquid crystal polymeric monofilaments that are held together statically.

24. (New) An intravascular catheter as in claim 23, wherein the liquid crystal polymeric monofilaments are arranged side-by-side to collectively define a flat ribbon.

25. (New) An intravascular catheter comprising an elongate shaft having a reinforcement layer comprising a tubular braid having a first helical member interwoven with a second helical

member and an axial member disposed between the first helical member and the second helical member,

wherein the axial member comprises a plurality of polymeric monofilaments that are held together statically.

26. (New) An intravascular catheter as in claim 25, wherein the polymeric monofilaments comprise liquid crystal polymer.

27. (New) An intravascular catheter as in claim 26, wherein the liquid crystal polymeric monofilaments are arranged side-by-side to collectively define a flat ribbon.

28. (New) An intravascular catheter comprising an elongate shaft having a lumen extending therethrough, the shaft including an inner polymer layer, a reinforcement layer disposed about the inner layer and an outer polymer layer disposed about the reinforcement layer, the reinforcement layer comprising a tubular braid having a first helical member interwoven with a second helical member, the first helical member defining a portion of a first helical member layer extending the length of the tubular braid, the second helical member defining a portion of a second helical member layer extending the length of the tubular braid, and an axial member positioned between the first helical member layer and the second helical member layer.